

**Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

**8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831**

**401 615-7039 - [www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

**PRA Office, Hope – February 4, 2013**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Michael Breault, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Steve McAllister, Bridget Skuce**

**Board Members Absent: Tara Digre, David Finnegan, Arthur Langlais**

**Associate Members Present: Ross Adrain, Jimmy Johnson**

**Guests Present: Joseph Guarnaccia, BASF; project manager for Cranston Landfill closure**

**Ray Wolf, author**

## **Call to Order**

**Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was present.**

## **Presentation on closing of Cranston Landfill**

**Joseph Guarnaccia explained how significant regrading is being done at the former Cranston Sanitary Landfill, which abuts the Howard Conservation Area. The purpose of the work now underway is to cap the landfill and make it impermeable to enhance the surface water**

discharge and to redirect the flow. The surface water discharge will be sent down the slope through a rip-rapped channel, then to the river in two underground pipes under the road and the canoe launch parking lot. The runoff will enter the river a short distance downstream from the Howard canoe launch. The work to install the pipe under the parking area will only take a couple of days and will be done during the summer. There will be a monitoring plan associated with the project to test the quality of the runoff.

Mr. Guarnaccia agreed to inspect an old pipe (possibly a former storm drain) described by PRA board members. He will forward to Mr. Nero a draft of an easement that will be between the Capuanos (who are still owners of the landfill property) and the PRA for the pipes that will be installed through the PRA property.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was distributed and on a motion by Mr. Lancellotta, seconded by Mr. Maddalena, it was approved with the addition of (1) another guest speaker (Mr. Wolf) and (2) proposed bylaws changes.

### **Approval of January, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Lancellotta, seconded by Mr. Breault, the board approved the minutes as submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Holahan distributed copies of and reviewed the report, which

included updates on the savings and checking accounts. West Warwick submitted their payments for the current fiscal year; this leaves only Warwick owing their annual contribution. A letter with an invoice for \$5,000 was delivered by Mr. Goodinson to Chief of Staff Mark Caruolo's secretary. It was agreed that if no response is received within a week, Mr. Nero will inform our attorney to send a letter to the city.

### **Bylaw discussion**

Mr. Nero reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed possible changes to the bylaws relating to attendance at board meetings. The proposed change involved eliminating the phrase about an incapacitating medical condition as an acceptable excuse to not attend a meeting. Such an absence would be acceptable in addition to three allowed absences. Mr. Nero explained his reasons for believing that the phrase should remain. Additional language was proposed describing the policy for board members' attendance at PRA events and committee meetings.

The language will be finalized, sent to the board for review, and we will discuss and vote on the changes at the next board meeting.

### **Old Kent Road Property Land Sale**

Mr. Nero reported that the owners of the property are pushing the PRA for a commitment. We can apply for a RIDEM grant and/or a RIDEM loan. Mr. Johnson suggested considering alternate mortgage

options. Mr. Goodinson said we should consider making a counter proposal to their asking price. Mr. McAllister said that with no guarantee that we will get a grant from DEM, we should not make any offer. Mr. Nero said that the building we proposed to use as a headquarters would need a total rebuild and several months' work to be usable; we would certainly have to continue paying rent at our current office. Mr. Breault reported that we could get free labor from New England Tech students to fix up the potential PRA headquarters.

It was agreed to have a meeting of the board on Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 to review the numbers and timeframe and vote on whether we should proceed with a counter proposal.

#### **Town of Coventry River projects**

Mr. Breault reported that he and Mr. Manning met with Guy Lefebvre, town recreation director who told them the town is involved in five river projects:

- (1) Along the bikepath, near the Station Street crossing, the town proposes a “bump-out” along the bikepath at the river to allow access and fishing;
- (2) Pilgrim Avenue: cement canoe launch near the Anthony Mill; this is completed but needs additional work to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. They will also build a post-and-beam shade structure and add picnic tables near the Anthony Mill as a rest stop along the bikepath;

**(3) Sandy Bottom Road: canoe launch;**

**(4) Town is in negotiations to acquire a property near Benny's on Route 3;**

**(5) Near the Harris Mill: Town is working on an application to RIDEM to acquire land along the river.**

**The town is also interested in repairing a small iron lenticular truss bridge behind the Arkwright Mill.**

**Mr. Breault is hopeful that the lines of communication between the town and the PRA will be improved.**

**Mr. Breault also met with Mr. Procaccini, the new president of the Nathaneal Greene Homestead Association. They are interested in acquiring land from Clariant that is between their property and the river and installing a canoe launch. He is also interested in building a barn and blacksmith shop and bringing heritage cattle to the property. There will be a meeting at the Homestead on Saturday, March 2 with the PRA Coventry representatives and members of the Homestead Association.**

## **Ray Wolf**

**Mr. Nero introduced Ray Wolf, historian and author of four Arcadia Press Images of America books on the Pawtuxet Valley: The Lost Villages of Scituate. Building the Scituate Reservoir, West Warwick, and Pawtuxet Valley Villages: Hope to Natick to Washington. He has also produced a book on Foster and is working on one on Coventry. He gives bus tours of the lost villages. He will make a presentation at**

**the R.I. Historical Preservation Conference in West Warwick on April 27. The PRA will buy copies of each of his four Pawtuxet Valley books.**

### **Narragansett Bay Commission Earth Day Clean-up Grants**

**Narragansett Bay Commission is offering grants for projects in the NBC service area; none of the five cities and towns along the Pawtuxet are within that service area. Mr. Nero is going to submit an application noting that the main stem of the Pawtuxet River has a big influence on Narragansett Bay. The Cranston and Warwick wastewater treatment plants are interested in partnering with the PRA on these clean-ups.**

### **Events**

- a. Land & Water Conservation Summit: This year's summit will be held on Saturday, March 9 at URI. The PRA will pay for up to three people to attend.**
- b. R.I. Salt Water Fishing Show: The show will be held from March 8 through 10 at the Providence Convention Center. Mr. Nero asked for volunteers to man a PRA booth; we will get a free booth.**

### **Finance committee meeting**

**A meeting of the finance committee focusing on fundraising events was held on Sunday, February 3. Because of short notice, only Ms. Holahan and Ms. Skuce attended. They discussed holding events at Veterans' Square and at other properties and will seek to engage the**

**business community near the properties. Ms Holahan asked for names of businesses which may be interested.**

### **Equipment**

**Mr. Nero said the new bed for the truck will be installed soon and the vehicle will be painted; payment may be deferred. He also proposed that we buy an electric winch for the truck which we could use at clean-ups. He agreed to get cost estimates for a winch.**

**Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Lockett, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ginny Leslie, Secretary**